

**HB: 5033 AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS
AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Good morning, Representative Josh Elliot and Senator Derek Slap, and members of the Higher Ed committee.

My name is Rosemary Redrovan. I live in Danbury, Connecticut. I am a UConn student at the Waterbury campus. I support Bill No. 5033, and the idea that Uconn should be mandated to survey its students to see what food insecurity problems exist so that they can address the problem and make the changes that are necessary. As a first year college student I did not realize how difficult it is to have access to affordable and good quality food. As a commuter I must spend my whole day on campus and find affordable food off campus. I do not have enough money to purchase nutritious food since it is expensive. Due to the lack of food access on my campus, I must eat whatever is available surrounding my area which tends to be fast food that has brought up health issues. I am a student with Hypothyroidism and Gastritis which means I need to have a balanced meal. However, with the food insecurity present on my campus I cannot manage to keep a balanced meal because nutritious food prices keep rising making it extremely difficult for me to pay for it. Furthermore, the lack of food accessibility is impacting not only my health and ability to learn and grow but my peers' too. Not having access to food, makes us have fatigue, headaches, dizziness, which prevents us from being fully able to function during our classes and study sessions. Many times I have had to go home earlier because my small headaches have turned into migraines due to the lack of food. Lastly, something important that

must be noted is that the lack of having access to constant nutritious food can definitely cause chronic conditions that students must live with and pay with their own money. I urge that this bill is taken into consideration and further necessary steps are taken to help us. Thank you for your time and have a great day.